

September 23, 2010

#09-213(WPCB) (CAFO Rulemaking)  
Janet Pittman  
Rules Development Branch  
Office of Legal Counsel  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY

Officers and agents of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM),  
Please accept these comments concerning the lifting of certain requirements of CAFO operators to provide specific information concerning discharging and financial reporting.

In light of more recent events whereas some operators are believed to have contributed to Indiana waterway pollution and abuse of natural resources, I find it reckless and regardless of state regulating committees and offices to neglect the moral and legal obligations to maintain the highest quality of water and in maintaining our resources for posterity. I believe that these actions are more politically and monetarily driven, and favor certain parties over citizens' concerns and rights.

The state should be making effort for further regulation of waste discharge in order to protect the greater community's health concerns. In my opinion, further regulations are in order to compel CAFO operators to pre-treat waste or establish on-site waste treatment facilities in an effort to create and maintain more hygienic practices. We have seen that self-regulation is not effective in deterring abusive activities by some of these operators. As evidenced, please reference the recent pollution activities in Randolph County, Indiana, and Grand Lake, Ohio, and the loss of resources due to lack of sufficient government oversight. Further insult in the case of Grand Lake is the fact that Indiana plans to allow the same wastes that disrupted the Ohio ecosystem and water quality to be dumped on Indiana sites, contaminating our resources.

Please do not weaken our environmental regulations, which only benefit a few producers financially. The larger issue is the protection of Hoosiers from unhealthy practices and prevents violation of (taxpayer-funded) resources, especially water and air quality. I believe that it is the primary obligation of the state of Indiana to protect the citizens from the incompetent decisions of a few.

Sincerely,

Christopher Surber  
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